

## THE PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY

The Rev. R. M. Patterson, D. D., in the *Treasury of Religious Thought*, presents some very interesting figures illustrating the progress of Christianity. These figures may prove helpful in connection with the study of the Young People's topics for July 17, "Christianity compared with other Religions."

In the year 1000 the number of nominal Christians in the world was computed at about only 50,000,000; in 1500, 100,000,000; in 1700, 155,000,000; in 1800, 250,000,000; and now, in a world population of about 1,430,000,000, 477,000,000.

As to the different governments of the world and the people whom they rule, nearly 800,000,000 of the 1,430,000,000 inhabitants of the world are under Christian governments. The progress, at first slow, has been with an ever-increasing ratio.

As to the different forms of Christianity. In the year 1700 there were 90,000,000 of the inhabitants of the world under Roman Catholic governments; 33,000,000 under Greek, and 32,000,000 under Protestant; and now the number under Protestant is about 450,000,000 of the 800,000,000 who are under Christian governments.

As to the United States, the latest reports (1896) give 25,424,333 as the number of communicants in all the churches of all kinds, and about 10,000,000 children in all the Sunday schools, which figures seem to leave a large proportion of the population beyond all direct ecclesiastical connection, not connected in any way with any of the churches or schools, tho, of course, many of those who are not members of any church may be in families some of whose members are in churches and schools and attendants upon the services, and, in some measure, under their influence.

## THE GOLDEN AGE OF MISSIONS

The Independent.

The Church is now going through much the same experience that comes to very nearly every missionary on the field. It is a common, if not universal experience there that after two or three years of work an earnest man or woman, who has gone out full of enthusiasm and ambition, comes to wonder whether, after all, a mistake has not been made, and whether better work could not be done somewhere else, perhaps at home. The work is so different from what was anticipated, and they seem to make so little progress. Sometimes they yield. More often they hold firm and find that their grandest, most successful work is yet before them. They take it up with new heart, new energy, and a little later, look upon withdrawal, if for any reason that becomes necessary, as the greatest possible trial.

So it will be with the Church. It is now in its trying time. It is facing as never before the real problem of the Christianizing, not merely the evangelizing of the world. If it holds true, if it supports the work it has commenced and enables it to be carried on,

it will find a golden age before it such as it has not dreamed of. If it holds back, the story of the Middle Ages may be repeated, and the world may wait for evangelists from Africa to do in America what Americans are now doing in the Levant.

Let us look for a moment at the immediate possibilities. The battle with the great systems is on as it has never been. Buddhism in Siam, in China, in Japan, is bestirring itself to resist the encroachments of Christianity. Hinduism is looking anxiously at the signs of its weakening power, over not merely the educated, but the common people. Islam shows an, as yet, undivided and apparently unconcerned front, yet recent events make manifest its realization that it has at last met a foe the strongest it has ever encountered. While this is true, however, it must not be supposed that the end is near. Such systems are not conquered in a generation. They survive many severe wounds, and rally even after they appear to be conquered. That they can be conquered, however, and that they will be, is as true as Christianity itself. When they yield, then will be the golden age of missions.

How soon that will come depends very much upon the attitude of the Church toward the work during these coming years. If the vantage-ground is to be kept and increased, the day of success will be hastened. If work already done is to be given up, if the orders to those at the front is to be Retreat, instead of Advance, then the delay may be indefinite. Now is a time of test, not a time of crisis, for crisis implies a possible failure, and God's work knows of no such possibility. It may, however, be delayed through failure of His appointed means fully to meet the demands upon them. To meet them requires effort, patient, persevering, persistent effort; but that will win.

## Church News

## Penna. Church Convention

The eleventh annual convention of the Brethren church was called to order at 2 P. M. by Vice Moderator J. F. Koontz. The presiding officer conducted devotional services taking his lesson from the third chapter of the 1st Epistle of St. John. Singing by choir.

Chair appointed R. Z. Replogle, Horace Kolb and Henry Wise as committee on credentials and enrollment.

Sister Downey of the Philadelphia church rendered a vocal solo entitled "The Model Church." Owing to the absence of Moderator Spanogle no annual report was given. Singing by congregation. Committee on credentials and enrollment made their report, being in full as follows: Ministerial delegates present—R. E. Darling, Henry Wise, M. C. Myers, P. M. Swinehart, I. D. Bowman, J. C. Cassel, J. H. Knepper, J. C. Mackey, J. F. Koontz, E. E. Haskins, R. Z. Replogle, E. E. Roberts, A. F. Atwood. Absent—R. D. Dalzell, D. J. Bole, Gilbert Nelson, J. M. Gibbony, Daniel Crofford, W.

M. Lyon, J. W. Smouse, F. B. McCullough, W. A. Harmon, J. E. Shope, W. L. Spanogle, Samuel H. Buzzard, Jos. Reighard, W. A. Adams, Benjamin Goughnour, J. B. Wampler, W. A. Seibert, H. R. Holsinger, A. J. Miller.

Lay delegates present:—J. E. Parsons, Mrs. J. C. Mackey, Miss Lizzie Smith, and George D. Paul. I. D. Bowman moved, seconded by Brother Mackey, that the report be accepted. Carried.

Proceeded to the election of officers, the chair appointing Wm. Kolb, Jr., and P. M. Swinehart as tellers. The selections made are as follows: J. F. Koontz, moderator; E. E. Haskins, vice moderator; J. E. Parsons, secretary; Wm. Kolb, Jr., treasurer. The tellers were discharged with the thanks of the presiding officer.

Chair appointed the following committees: On queries—Rev. Darling and Sister Souder. On parochial report and tabular statement—R. Z. Replogle, Geo. D. Paul and P. M. Swinehart. On resolutions—J. C. Cassel, Henry Wise and J. C. Mackey.

The address of the afternoon, "Work and Functions of District Conferences" by R. Z. Replogle was well received and discussed by J. H. Knepper, J. C. Cassel, E. E. Haskins, Wm. Kolb, Jr., M. C. Myers, Henry Wise, I. D. Bowman and Harry Cassel.

A motion was made by J. C. Cassel, seconded by R. Z. Replogle "That a committee of three be appointed to make an abstract of previous minutes and report to the next state convention, with a view of having them printed in pamphlet form for future reference. Carried. Moved by Brother Knepper, seconded by Brother Bowman, that J. C. Cassel, J. E. Parsons, and E. E. Haskins comprise the above committee and that the moderator make it his business to see that the work is done. Motion carried.

Dismissed after having benediction pronounced by R. Z. Replogle.

## SECOND SESSION, JUNE 8

Opened at 7:45 P. M., with devotional exercises conducted by P. M. Swinehart, having for his lesson part of the 13th chapter of Romans. Moderator called meeting to order at 8 P. M. Singing by congregation, followed with a duet by Sister Atwood and Harry Cassel. The address of the evening entitled "The Latest Era, its Ethical and Intellectual Needs," was ably presented by J. C. Mackey, of Salisbury, Pa. After the address the Waverly Glee Club of Philadelphia rendered some very fine music. Too much praise cannot be given to the gentlemen comprising this organization, the sentiment of the visiting delegates being that it was the best "male chorus they had ever had the pleasure of listening too."

Dismissed with benediction by E. E. Roberts.

## THIRD SESSION, JUNE 9

Devotional exercises at 9:15 A. M., by R. Z. Replogle, taking his lesson from the 11th chapter of Acts. Minutes of former sessions read and approved. Motion prevailed to